

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GABORO 02684 311402Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-13 /093 W

-----020911 311441Z /56

R 311036Z OCT 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0936

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 2684

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT BC

SUBJ: POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE: CUBA ENTERS THE PICTURE

REF: GABORONE 2676

1. IN COURSE OF MEETING DESCRIBED REFTEL, I ASKED PRESIDENT KHAMA ABOUT HIS HEALTH, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE HEAVY SCHEDULE OF ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNING. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE FELT FINE PHYSICALLY (AND LOOKED IT) AND SAID HE WAS PLEASED BY OUTCOME OF RECENT ELECTION.

2. KHAMA NOTED THAT THE PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION, THE BNF PARTY, WAS APPARENTLY UNRECONCILED TO DEFEAT IN FAIR ELECTION AND WAS TAKING STEPS TO INTENSIFY TRAINING OF REVOLUTIONARIES. HE SAID OPPOSITION LEADER KENNETH KOMA SEEMED DETERMINED TO RELY ON "REVOLUTIONARY TACTICS". GOB ALREADY HAD PROOF THAT
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PAGE 02 GABORO 02684 311402Z

KOMA HAD RECRUITED ONE CITIZEN OF BOTSWANA TO GO TO CUBA FOR TRAINING. PRES KHAMA SAID HE UNDERSTANDS THIS IS THE FIRST OF FIVE SUCH TRAINEES.

3. AS FOLLOW UP TO PRESIDENT'S COMMENT, I INQUIRED ABOUT STATUS OF CUBAN INITIATIVE TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH BOTSWANA, ADDING THAT I HAD ENCOUNTERED INDICATIONS OF

SIMILAR CUBAN INITIATIVE IN LESOTHO. PRESIDENT KHAMA SAID GOB HAD MADE A DECISION; IT HAD AGREED TO ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS. I ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY INDICATION WHETHER AN AMBASSADOR WOULD BE RESIDENT; PRESIDENT KHAMA, WITH HIS ADVISER LEGWAILA NODDING AGREEMENT, SAID HE THOUGHT CUBAN AMBASSADOR WOULD BE RESIDENT ELSEWHERE, PERHAPS LUSAKA.

4. I COMMENTED THAT GIVEN THE RELATIVE ABSENCE OF CUBAN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN AFRICA ONE WAS ENTITLED TO ASK WHAT THEIR MOTIVES MIGHT BE IN ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH SUCH COUNTRIES AS BOTSWANA AND LESOTHO, ADDING IT WAS MY UNDERSTANDING CUBA DID NOT HAVE RELATIONS WITH SUCH COUNTRIES AS NIGERIA. PRES KHAMA SAID THE CUBAN INITIATIVE OBVIOUSLY RAISED QUESTIONS BUT, WITH THE MISSION NON-RESIDENT, HE FELT NO REASON FOR CONCERN.

5. DEPARTMENT PASS USINT HAVANA IF DESIRED.
NORLAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 31-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
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